



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

January 22, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Health Care  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Email: [shc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:shc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: **SB27** – Relating to Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act fees – **Support**

The health and safety of our drinking water is a high priority for the League. Our position is that: The League opposes degradation of all of Oregon's surface and ground water. The League supports policies and legislation that integrate water quality into resource management, including potable water and drinking water treatment facilities, uniform water quality testing protocols– updated as scientific methodologies improve, and permitting and enforcement procedures with agency funding adequate to ensure timely compliance.

The League reviews the current status of Oregon's drinking water program via our seat on the Drinking Water Advisory Committee. Oregon's drinking water program is currently underfunded. There are delays in the review of the latest science, which could improve water quality and reduce costs. Some water systems are chronically out of compliance. In addition, the current fee structure is a disproportionate burden on small water systems in comparison to medium and large water systems.

The League supports SB27, which authorizes rulemaking for possible changes in the fee structure and which will help to address these inequities. While we recognize that these fees will ultimately be passed through to users, they are vital to ensuring the integrity of our drinking water program. We ask that you move SB 27 to Ways and Means with a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amelia Nestler".

Amelia Nestler  
LWVOR Drinking Water Advisory Committee Member

Cc: David Emme, Manager, Drinking Water Services ([David.H.Emme@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:David.H.Emme@dhsosha.state.or.us))